Outlines of World Leaders

VI

Abraham Lincoln: The Statesman of Nineteenth Century America*

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I. SLAVERY THE POLITICAL PROBLEM OF THE LAST CENTURY

African Slavery begun in America in 1619; self-government begun the same year. Questions arising out of the growth of slavery. Birth of the Republican party 1856.

II. EARLY LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Ancestry of Quaker pioneers; Samuel Lincoln at Hingham, Massachusetts, 1638. Abraham, grandfather of the sixteenth president, moved from Virginia to Kentucky 1780; the family. Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks; the birth of Sarah at Elizabethtown. Removal to a farm near Hodgensville. Abraham Lincoln born February 12, 1809. David Elkin. Two schools. Removal to Indiana 1816; the "half-faced camp." Mother's death 1818; David Elkin's journey. Sally Bush Johnson. More schools. Intensive acquaintance with a limited library. Consciousness of power; occupations and personal qualities. Removal to Illinois 1830; winter of the deep snow. Second trip to New Orleans; store clerk. Conspicuous honesty. Captain in the Black Hawk War 1832. Candidate for the legislature at twenty-three years of age, defeated. Partnership with Berry 1832; seventeen years paying the "national debt." Postmaster. Lawyer or blacksmith. Characterization of Lincoln at this period.

III. BEGINNINGS OF A POLITICAL CAREER

Elected to the state legislature 1834; remained eight years. Anne Rutledge and Mary Owens. Admitted to the bar 1836. Law partnerships. Marriage to Mary Todd 1842. Elected to congress 1846. Debates with Douglas. Nominated for the presidency 1860. The troublesome times; farewell to Springfield; journey to Washington.

* Owing to the recurrence of Lincoln's birthday this month, we vary the natural order of these Outlines. This one would otherwise have been No. VIII.

IV. THE WAR PERIOD

The inauguration, March 4, 1861; question of Fort Sumter; Seward's presumption and Lincoln's native mastery of men. Blockade and the call for troops. Mason and Slidell; relations with General McClellan. Emancipation. Other incidents of this period. In spite of opposition, he was re-elected in 1864. April 14, 1865.

V. THE FAME AND CHARACTER OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Cavour, Bismarck, Lincoln. Lincoln and the other men of his time. Product of his age; not an exception to the law illustrated in the lives of other world leaders. Necessity for a national memorial; the life of Osborn H. Oldroyd.

VI. CONCLUSION

Abraham Lincoln's place among the great men of history is assured. Poverty, toil, simple sincerity, native humor and intelligence, led him by the way of self-reliance to an altitude of unequalled American leadership. From the view-point of constructive achievement he stands in the last century by the side of Cavour and Bismarck. The close logic and quaint penetration of Socrates, the political activity and statesmanlike vision of Charlemagne reappear in this man's life and purpose. His atlantean shoulders pushed back the mistaken onrush of eight millions of people. His warm human sympathy melted the chains from four millions of slaves. His tireless energy, sagacity and persistent good will bound up the nation's wounds, cared for him who bore the battle, achieved a just and lasting peace, established a reunited nation. His life will interpret the spirit of our institutions to generations of ages and dwell in the hearts of our people forever. Men will never cease to worship the sweetness and the plain pioneer virtues of Abraham Lincoln.

REFERENCES

Abraham Lincoln, a History, John G. Nicolay and John Hay; Abraham Lincoln, the True Story of a Great Life, William H. Herndon; Six Months at the White House with Abraham Lincoln, F. B. Carpenter; The Life of Abraham Lincoln, Ida M. Tarbell; Assassination of Abraham Lincoln, Osborn H. Oldroyd; Abraham Lincoln, Carl Schurz; Abraham Lincoln, Ellis Paxon Oberholtzer; Nancy Hanks, Caroline Hanks Hitchcock; Lincoln and Seward, Gideon Wells; Abraham Lincoln, Tributes from his Associates, Introduction by William H. Ward.